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151813Z MAR 01

FROM:

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-PA/DPL/CHAIRS//

CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE ON CIVILIAN VISITORS OPERATING MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REFERENCE (A), SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM, 'CIVILIAN VISITORS OPERATING MILITARY EQUIPMENT,' FEBRUARY 22, 2001

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE REGARDING THE CONTINUANCE OF IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CIVILIAN ORIENTATION PROGRAMS.

2. PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTURE IS ACTIVE.

3. BACKGROUND: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD'S MEMORANDUM, REFERENCED ABOVE, IMPOSES A MORATORIUM ON CIVILIAN VISITORS OPERATING ANY ITEM OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN SUCH OPERATION COULD CAUSE, OR REASONABLY BE PERCEIVED AS CAUSING, AN INCREASED SAFETY RISK. THE

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SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY BANS CIVILIAN VISITORS FROM ENGAGING IN ANY ASPECT OF THE OPERATION OF MILITARY VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, VEHICLES, AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THE SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM ALSO STATES THAT THE MORATORIUM IS NOT DESIGNED TO RESTRICT CIVILIAN VISITORS FROM OBSERVING THEIR MILITARY AND DIRECTED THAT THE ASD(PA) ISSUE IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THIS MORATORIUM IN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAMS. THE SECRETARY FURTHER DIRECTS THE SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS TO ISSUE GUIDANCE ON CIVILIAN VISITORS' USE OF OTHER ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

4. DISCUSSION: DOD COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CIVILIAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, CIVIC LEADER TOURS, ORIENTATION AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS, DEMONSTRATION TEAM TANDEM JUMPS, ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE, AND A VARIETY OF ORIENTATION VISITS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA, CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ACADEMIC AND YOUTH GROUPS, OPINION LEADERS, LOCAL CITIZENS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND MANY OTHERS.

5. TALKING POINTS:

A. FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, DOD HAS RESPONSIBLY MANAGED THESE

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PROGRAMS WHICH ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO MILITARY FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WHO TRAIN, DEPLOY, AND FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT THREATEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY EVERY DAY. COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND EXECUTE THESE IMPORTANT PROGRAMS WITH PRUDENT OVERSIGHT THAT EMPHASIZES

SAFETY FIRST AND COMPLIES WITH THIS MORATORIUM.

B. WHILE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MORATORIUM PROHIBITS NON-DOD CIVILIANS FROM OPERATING MILITARY AIRCRAFT, VESSELS, WEAPONS, AND MATERIEL, THEY MAY CONTINUE TO OBSERVE, SIT IN, RIDE ON AND SIMILARLY ACCESS SUCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

C. THIS MORATORIUM BANS CIVILIAN VISITORS FROM BEING INVOLVED IN ANY ASPECT OF THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF MILITARY VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, VEHICLES, AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SYSTEMS. IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT CIVILIANS FROM HAVING HANDS-ON CONTACT WITH, AND SELECTED OPERATION OF, OTHER TYPES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PROVIDED COMMANDERS ENSURE THAT CIVILIAN VISITORS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND SUPERVISION AND SUCH OPERATION WILL NOT CAUSE -- OR BE REASONABLY PERCEIVED TO CAUSE -- AN INCREASED SAFETY RISK TO THEMSELVES OR THOSE AROUND THEM. THE SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ARE TASKED TO ISSUE IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE REGARDING THESE OTHER ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT,

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INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL SMALL ARMS. THEIR GUIDANCE WILL ENSURE THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT, IF OPERATED BY CIVILIAN VISITORS, IS OPERATED SAFELY AND UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF DOD EMPLOYEES OR MILITARY PERSONNEL.

D. SINCE 1989, THE ANNUAL HARRIS POLL HAS REPORTED HIGHER PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE MILITARY THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN INSTITUTION. COMMANDERS MUST WORK TO CONTINUE TO SHOW AMERICANS WHAT A FINE MILITARY THEY HAVE. THE MANY DOD PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS WHICH ALLOW DIRECT PUBLIC INTERACTION WITH THE MILITARY ARE VITAL TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF OUR ARMED FORCES IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1. ARE CIVILIAN VISITORS ALLOWED TO RIDE ON MILITARY VEHICLES, SHIPS, PLANES, ETC?

A1. THE SECDEF'S MEMORANDUM DOES NOT PREVENT CIVILIAN VISITORS FROM RIDING ON MILITARY VEHICLES, SHIPS, PLANES, ETC., WHEN THE EQUIPMENT IS BEING OPERATED BY TRAINED SERVICE PERSONNEL. HIS MEMORANDUM PROHIBITS ALLOWING THE CIVILIAN VISITORS TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT. FOR MORE DETAILS REFER TO THE SERVICE SECRETARIES' GUIDANCE.

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Q2. ARE THERE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT THAT CIVILIAN VISITORS CAN OPERATE?

A2. THE SECDEF'S MEMORANDUM ALLOWS CIVILIAN VISITORS TO OPERATE OTHER TYPES OF EQUIPMENT, TO INCLUDE SMALL ARMS. THE SERVICE SECRETARIES WILL ISSUE GUIDANCE REGARDING THESE OTHER ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT.

Q3. IS THIS GUIDANCE A RESPONSE TO THE ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE USS GREENEVILLE?

A3. THE USS GREENEVILLE INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED TO EXAMINE THE EFFICACY OF ALLOWING CIVILIAN VISITORS TO OPERATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THIS GUIDANCE IS MEANT TO ENSURE THE SAFE OPERATION OF ALL MILITARY VEHICLES, VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

Q4. WHO WILL OVERSEE CIVILIAN VISITORS WHEN THEY ARE OPERATING MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

A4. COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL OR DOD EMPLOYEES WHO ARE SUPERVISING CIVILIAN VISITORS ARE TRAINED TO DO SO.

Q5. IF THE CIVILIAN VISITORS ARE ALLOWED ON MILITARY VEHICLES, VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SYSTEMS, HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF THOSE AROUND THEM?

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A5. COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE THAT THEY AND THEIR SUBORDINATES DO NOT ALLOW CIVILIAN VISITORS TO DISTRACT THEM FROM PERFORMING, OR INTERFERE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF, THEIR DUTIES.

7. POINT OF CONTACT AT:

A. OASD(PA) COMMUNITY RELATIONS IS COL MILES WILEY, USAF, AT (703) 697-6005, (DSN) 227-6005.

B. OASD(PA) MEDIA IS LTCOL WILLETTE CARTER, USAF, AT (703) 607-5332, (DSN) 227-5332.

C. OASD(PA) PLANS IS COL LANE VAN DE STEEG, USA, AT (703) 697-7341, (DSN) 227-7431.

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ACTION (U,A)

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ACTION ASD:PA-SMTP(*) (6,8,F)

INFO CHAIRS(1) SECDEF-C(*) SECDEF-C(*)

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